

Resource reviews

The Code of Ethics: A guide for everyday practice

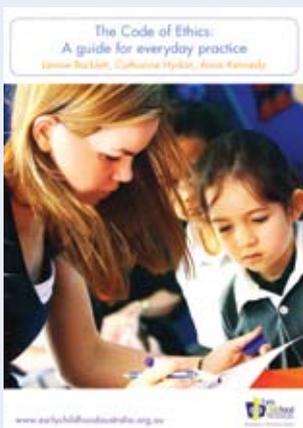
review by Phillip Rowell

In 1990, Early Childhood Australia (ECA), developed the ECA Code of Ethics, which establishes 'a framework for thinking about the ethical issues early childhood professionals encounter in their everyday work'. During 2006, the original Code of Ethics was revised with extensive consultation with the early childhood sector.

The Code of Ethics: A guide for everyday practice is a useful companion publication to the ECA Code of Ethics. It provides child care professionals with practical guidance for implementing the Code in daily child care situations. The resource suggests strategies to assist professionals to critically reflect on their practice to make ethical decisions about the issues that arise in their work.

This book addresses several key concepts relating to ethical practice. These include: the intent of an ethical code; how the code can be used to build ethical awareness and practice; and the importance of collaboratively exploring ethical dilemmas with stakeholders through a process of thinking, talking and action.

While this resource and the *Code of Ethics* have been developed primarily for the early childhood sector, child care professionals working with school age children will find the principles underpinning both to be relevant to the dilemmas and challenges they experience in their daily work. By using practical examples of ethical issues in early childhood with corresponding reflective questions, this book will be useful for services that are developing or reviewing their philosophy ■

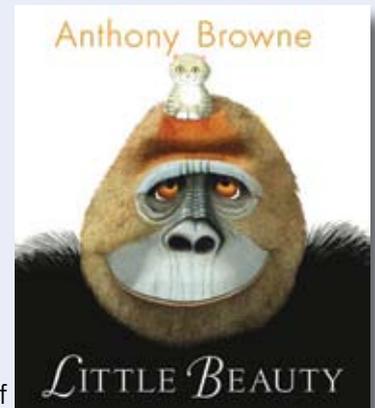


Barblett, L., Hydon, C., & Kennedy, A. (2008). *The Code of Ethics: A guide for everyday practice*. Research in Practice Series, 15(1). ACT: Early Childhood Australia.

Little Beauty

review by Lauren Boyle

The latest picture book by children's author and illustrator Anthony Browne, *Little Beauty*, explores a rather unlikely friendship between a gorilla and his tiny friend, a cat. This is an engrossing story that examines loneliness, the value of friendship, loyalty and the consequences of losing your temper.



Communicating by sign language, the gorilla is able to tell zoo keepers what he wants. While the gorilla seems to have everything he needs - television and cheeseburgers included - he is very sad and asks his keepers for a friend. When presented with a tiny cat named Beauty, the two of them become inseparable companions.

The book is suitable for children aged three to six, however, the concept of humility and courtesy triumphing over physical strength provides a narrative older children will also enjoy. Including subtle references to King Kong, the book has detailed illustrations and simple text that will help young children identify the friendship between the gorilla and Beauty.

The book explores themes of caring and how sharing experiences can foster relationships. This resource can be used in children's programs where sign language is being explored, as well as when talking about feelings of loneliness and anger, while encouraging diverse relationships ■

Brown, A. (2008). *Little Beauty*. London: Walker Books.